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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

The Japan Stork.—My friend Mr. T. Kimura of Stanford University has kindly loaned me three interesting photographs showing the nest, adult, and young of the Japan stork,



THE JAPAN STORK, IZUSHI, JAPAN

Ciconia boyciana Swinhoe. These photographs were taken in June, 1904, at Izushi in the west central portion of the main island of Japan. The accompanying reproduction of one of the photographs shows the old bird and one young standing, and apparently one young lying in the nest. Another photograph, however, reveals four young in a sitting posture, together with the adult. Mr. Kimura informs me that the tortoise and stork are venerated in Japan as emblems of long life, and figures of them are used in the ceremony of marriage. A note on the back of the photograph, in the Japanese language, informs the reader that the storks recently returned to this locality after an absence of many years, having been formerly fairly common in the general region. This nest is viewed by many people every day. The coming of the stork is regarded as a happy omen pointing to the supremacy of Japan in the final outcome of the present war. The Japanese believe that the cannonading and noise of fighting have driven the storks out of their wonted homes to seek refuge in the flowery kingdom. I am indebted to Dr. Leonhard Stejneger for the identification of the birds. Dr. Stejneger writes that this species is closely allied to the white stork of Europe, but is larger; and while the former has a red bill with a black spot in front of the eye, the Japanese species has a black bill with a red spot of naked skin. The Japanese name

is Ko-dzuru. (See also: Stejneger, Proc. U. S. Nat. Museum, 1887, pp. 285-286.)—WALTER K. FISHER.

The Flycatcher from the Santa Barbara Islands.—In *The Auk* for July, 1897, pp. 300-303, Mr. H. C. Oberholser described an alleged new species of flycatcher from the Santa Barbara group of islands, calling it *Empidonax insulicola*. His material consisted of five specimens, two from Santa Rosa island, two from Santa Cruz island, and one from Santa Catalina island. Of these, one specimen is remarked upon as differing somewhat from the rest, thus interrupting the uniformity of the "series"! In his further remarks the author calls attention to the fact that among a lot of mainland examples of *Empidonax difficilis* are at least two which show close approach to "*insulicola*" in characters. He also recognizes "a considerable range of variation" in the mainland series "not satisfactorily attributable to geographical causes." It is this latter observation that I wish to concur with, and emphasize. In fact, I feel convinced that "*insulicola*" itself was based upon individual variants of *difficilis*!

In June, 1897, I secured an *Empidonax* on San Clemente island. The two skins obtained were submitted to Mr. Oberholser, who marked them *insulicola*, and these were so recorded in my paper. (Rep. Bds. Santa Barbara Ids., Aug. 1897, p. 15.) Also Mr. Oberholser has recorded the same birds in the Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum (Vol. XXII, 1900, p. 230), remarking that they were "substantially identical with those from the other islands." I now have these two skins before me, and another from the Mailliard collection, taken on Santa Cruz island in April 1898. I also have at hand a series of 50 mainland skins of *Empidonax difficilis*, including 9 from Sitka, Alaska, and several from Arizona. I am impressed with the great amount of variation shown, in intensities of dorsal brownness, pectoral brownish suffusion, and abdominal yellowness, all of which appears to me to be entirely independent of locality. I have carefully

compared the three island skins above mentioned with the mainland series, and find several counterparts from Palo Alto and Pasadena, which I am absolutely and unqualifiedly unable to distinguish from them. A conscientious study of Mr. Oberholser's description leads me to conclude that he was not fortunate in having a sufficient series of mainland *breeding* birds for comparison.

As to bionimic reasoning, this flycatcher is migratory everywhere, north of Mexico at least; it is not known to occur on any of the Santa Barbara islands, except as a summer visitant; hence it is not a resident species there. Therefore we should not expect it to fall under the dominance of local environment, at least to such an extent as resident species like the jays, shrikes, song sparrows and wrens. As far as we now know, there is no reason for recognizing "*Empidonax insulicola*" as distinct from *E. difficilis*; therefore I propose that the former name be deposited from our lists.—JOSEPH GRINNELL.

Bohemian Waxwings in Utah.—Range of Cliff Swallows.—The long awaited Part III, of Ridgway's Birds of North and Middle America came recently to delight my heart, and though a formidable pile of examination papers entered a silent protest, I took time to cut the leaves and "run through" the volume. In the course of my hasty examination, I failed to find any Utah record of one of our winter birds, and in another case, I discovered that the range given, can be considerably extended in two directions. The species apparently not reported for Utah is the Bohemian waxwing (*Ampelis garrulus*). To my personal knowledge these birds have wintered in this part of Utah (central) for the past seven winters (counting the present) with one exception, that of 1900-1901. They may have been in the state during the winter named, but I did not happen to see them. These birds come about the middle of December and remain till the last week of March and first week in April. I have in preparation an article for THE CONDOR on the habits of these birds, so will not say more now.

The range of the cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*), as given by Ridgway is, "mid. and s. Utah." On July 10, 1903, I found these birds nesting well over toward the eastern side of Wasatch County. They were making use of a mass of yellow sandstone that had been weathered into an arch. In my notes, under the date named, is a rough drawing of this arch and the dimensions given are, "twenty feet across the top, while the inside of the span, where the nests are suspended, is a little more than ten feet in length and about the same number of feet in width, while it is just high enough to admit of my standing erect." Appearances seemed to indicate that a goodly number of nests had been destroyed not long before our visit to the place, and not more than two dozen of the birds were seen by us. Two nests were in use; others were in course of construction. In three instances new nests were being built on the foundations of old nests, and in a single instance the builder was *repairing* a nest that had the appearance of having been in use the year before. We also found these swallows (during the same trip, July 10-30, 1903) between Lake Fork and Ft. Duchesne, and between the Fort and Vernal, the county seat of Uinta County, thus extending the bounds of their eastern range to within about thirty miles of the Colorado line. On May 10, 1903, and May 12, 1904, I found these swallows nesting in the cliffs at Echo, in Summit County—about twenty miles west of the southwest corner of Wyoming. I am inclined to think that these birds nest throughout Utah, in suitable localities.—S. H. GOODWIN, Provo City, Utah.

Status of the Townsend Warbler in California.—*Dendroica townsendi* occurs in California in two roles, as a regular winter visitant and as a rather late spring migrant.^a I have personally met with it in both capacities and have secured considerable series of skins. From the Santa Cruz District ^b (Black Mt., King Mt., Woodside, Pescadero Creek, and vicinity of Monterey) my specimens indicate dates from October 13 through January. In the vicinity of Pasadena specimens were taken from April 22 to May 13, of various years. These two sets of skins, namely, mid-winter visitants from the Santa Cruz District, and late spring migrants from Pasadena, present slight but significant average differences from one another. The characters consist in the larger bill, shorter wing and tail, and more rounded wing of the former, as contrasted with the smaller bill, longer wing and tail, and more pointed wing of the latter. Such differences, we have learned from a study of bird races in general, are apparently correlated with lengths of the respective migratory journeys. For while both sets of birds certainly summer north of California, one goes no farther south in winter than central California, and the other set of individuals traverses the entire length of the state and farther, possibly providing the records from southern Mexico and Guatemala. Unfortunately I have no opportunity to examine breeding birds from the north. But I believe these two sets of individuals represent in reality two geographical races, breeding in separate faunal areas, the short-winged birds nesting in the humid Sitkan District, of the coast of south-eastern Alaska and British Columbia, the long-winged birds

^a Less in evidence during the southward movement in the fall. ^b See Map 2 in Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 3.

in the more arid interior of British Columbia and Northwest Territory, where the species has been found on the headwaters of the Yukon in July. Parallels seem to be afforded in the cases of *Ixoreus n. naevius* and *I. n. meruloides*, *Melospiza l. striata* and *M. l. lincolni*, and *Regulus c. grinnelli* and *R. c. calendula*. The differences in wing and tail lengths are not due to wear, for the spring birds show the most wear and yet exhibit the greatest measurements. Nineteen males of the Townsend warbler from the Santa Cruz District average: wing 2.57 in. (65 mm.); tail 2.19 in. (55.6 mm.); the 7th primary longest (7-8-9-6-5-4-3-2-1), counting the innermost as the first as recently recommended by Ridgway^c. Forty males from Pasadena average: wing 2.64 in. (67 mm.), tail 2.23 in. (56.6 mm.); the 8th primary largest (8-7-9-6, etc.).^d

Mr. Wells W. Cooke in his recent account of the "Distribution and Migration of North American Warblers"^e has the following to say of *Dendroica townsendi*: "The Townsend warbler is one of the widest ranging of the western warblers, breeding from the mountains of southern California north to Sitka, Alaska, [etc] * * * A few sometimes winter as far north as southern California." [Italics mine.] I hope that I may not be judged over-critical if I venture the assertion that both of these statements are decidedly misleading. One would infer that the species is well known as a regular breeder in the "mountains of southern California"; whereas we know of not one authentic instance of the species nesting anywhere within the State! Of course it is possible there remains unrecorded some instance known to Mr. Cooke; but this, if true, could reasonably be considered exceptional, judging from the comparative thoroughness with which the "mountains of southern California" have been explored ornithologically within the past few years. Again, that a few individuals sometimes winter in southern California, is quite true, but it gives no hint of the fact that the Townsend warbler winters regularly in the Santa Cruz District of central California in such numbers as to be considered common! Recourse to readily-available literature would have disclosed a series of records beginning in 1879.^f—JOSEPH GRINNELL.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow near Stanford University.—During the week from August 29 to September 4, 1904, I was camped in a ravine among the hills opposite Hidden Villa, which is on an old ranch near the base of Black Mountain, Santa Clara County, and about six miles from Stanford University. Here I heard the peculiar notes of the rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) almost daily, and saw several of the birds. On August 30 I procured a specimen, which is No. 5965 of my collection. The species was noted only on a southern hillside covered with a low growth of greasewood brush (*Adenostoma*). In this same place the Bell sparrow and dusky poor-will were also common.—JOSEPH GRINNELL.

Aerial Battle of Red-tailed Hawks, *Buteo borealis calurus*.—On December 8th, 1904, Rev. Thomas J. Wood of this place whilst feeding his chickens heard a loud, shrill sound overhead. On looking up he saw two large hawks fighting fiercely. Continuing to watch them he saw they were in some way fastened together and, going about in circles, were gradually nearing the ground. In a few minutes they dropped within a few feet of where he stood. As they struck the ground they became separated, but being somewhat exhausted from their struggle did not take immediate flight or attempt to until Mr. Wood started towards them when one started but was easily overtaken and fearlessly grasped by the neck by Mr. Wood who turning quickly, caught the other in a like manner. He brought and kindly presented them to me. They were the western red-tail (*Buteo borealis calurus*) in the intermediate plumage and both males. Their skins are now in my collection.—HENRY W. MARSDEN, *Witch Creek, Cal.*

***Colaptes auratus luteus* in Los Angeles County, Cal.**—A female specimen of *Colaptes auratus luteus* has lately come into my possession. It was taken near Alhambra, Nov. 4, 1904, by A. Williamson of this city, and so far as I have been able to obtain information is the second record for Los Angeles County. Our other record is of an adult male specimen taken in the same locality, Feb. 7, 1890, by E. C. Thurber.—C. H. RICHARDSON, JR., *Pasadena, Cal.*

Double Nest of Arkansas Kingbird.—During the past summer I made the acquaintance of what was to me an unknown trait in any flycatcher, that of building a double nest. A pair of Arkansas kingbirds (*Tyrannus verticalis*) built their nest near the top of a dilapidated windmill tower on an abandoned ranch near Turlock. On May 5, there were three eggs in the nest. I did not handle the eggs, nor even touch the nest, but left them as I wanted to study the feeding of the young. About two weeks later I climbed to the nest and found that the birds had built another nest on top of the first and had already laid three eggs. Two of these were afterwards hatched, the third being infertile.—J. S. HUNTER, *Berkeley, Cal.*

(Continued on page 55.)

^c Bds. N. and Mid. Am. I, 1901, p. XVI.

^d Anti-splitters please take note that I have here pointed out a subspecies without "burdening it with a name!"

^e U. S. Dept. Agr., Bull. No. 18, Div. Biol. Survey, 1904, p. 90.

^f Coues, Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club IV, April 1879, p. 117.

species (245 in collaboration with Osbert Salvin), 135 new genera (25 with Salvin), and two new families of American birds. In a broader sense, therefore, Dr. Sclater is one of the most eminent and prolific of American naturalists.

Dr. Jean Cabanis, the veteran German ornithologist, has also been an indefatigable worker. He is well known through the *Museum Heinianum* (with Heine) and the bird volume of *Fauna Peruana*. He has published *Ornithologische Notizen* (Wiegmann Arch. iv, 1847), *Uebersicht der im Berlin Museum befindlichen Vogel von Costa Rica* (Journ. fur Ornithologie, 1860-1862), *Uebersicht der von Herrn Carl Euler in District Contagallo, Provinz Rio de Janeiro gesammelten Vogel*, 1874, *Journal fur Ornithologie*.

and also a large number of other papers in the With Mr. Howard Saunders one always associates the excellent account of the gulls and terns in the Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum. He has also written a Manual of British Birds (1888-89), and contributed numerous papers to the Proceedings of Zoological Society of London, *The Ibis*, *Zoologist*, etc. Among these may be mentioned A List of the Birds of Southern Spain (*Ibis*, 1871), On the Sterninae or terns with descriptions of three new species (P. Z. S., 1876), On the Larinae or gulls (P. Z. S., 1878), On the geographical distribution of gulls and terns (1879). Mr. Saunders has been associated with Dr. Sclater as one of the editors of *The Ibis*.

Victor Ritter Von Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen, the distinguished Austrian ornithologist, was born December 28, 1847, at Slichov near Prag, Bohemia, and since 1871 has resided at Villa Tannenhof, near Hallein, Salzburg. His special field of study is palæarctic ornithology. The Count's collection contains over 5500 skins, many in rare and exclusive series, and it is open to everyone for scientific study. In late years he has devoted himself to the study of geographical forms, of which he has described a great number. At the request of the late Crown Prince Rudolf he directed for eight years the ornithological observation stations in Austro-Hungary, editing the results of the work as published in *Ornis* and in six separate yearbooks. Since 1890 Count v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen has edited that excellent journal, the *Ornithologisches Jahrbuch*, which is devoted exclusively to the advancement of palæarctic ornithology. Up to October, 1904, he has published about 400 ornithological works, and with 1905 looks back upon forty years of ornithological activity.

We take pleasure in calling attention to an addition to our editorial force. Mr. William Lovell Finley of Portland, Oregon, who with Mr. Herman T. Bohlman, has contributed to THE CONDOR frequently during the past three years, has been appointed an associate editor by president Mailliard. Unfortunately Mr. Finley's article, with numerous remarkable photographs of hummingbirds, through an abundance of copy on the waiting list, has to be postponed till the May issue.

Owing to the fact that practically all the editorial force of THE CONDOR will be "otherwise engaged" during the coming summer, all notices and manuscripts intended for the July issue must reach the editor not later than May 1. The short notes published in this issue about exhaust our supply. They have been coming in very slowly since November. Will not every member search his note-books?

We extend our best thanks to our Club member Mr. Louis Agassiz Fuertes who has contributed the painting of the prairie falcon reproduced as the frontispiece of this issue. We also wish to thank Mr. Ruthven Deane for the courtesy of loaning a valuable lithograph—that of Prince Charles Bonaparte—for reproduction.

We are obliged to repeat the apology made in the last issue for the postponement of the Club Roster, which will surely appear in May.

For the May issue we have interesting letters upon an interesting subject from Prof. Alfred Russell Wallace, and Dr. Leonhard Stejneger. More will follow in the July issue.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

(Continued from page 53)

Orange-crowned Warbler taken at San Luis Obispo, Cal.—While overhauling our series of *Helminthophila* recently I came across a specimen taken at San Luis Obispo on October 10, 1903, which had been laid aside for further examination and forgotten for the time being. This individual was shot by my brother during a trip we made together, and while we were much surprised to find a warbler of this genus at such a time of year, as well as being puzzled at its large size, it did not occur to either of us that it might prove to be *H. celata*. In fact we laid it aside in order to compare it with specimens of *H. c. lutescens* or *sordida* in fall plumage if we could find any. The taking of two *H. celata* in the Mojave Desert lately brought the matter to my mind and close comparison shows the San Luis Obispo bird (Coll. of J. & J. W. M., field no. 5758, ♂) to be of this form, making it the most northern record in California for the orange-crowned warbler—unless I am greatly mistaken.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

The Mockingbird at Stanford University, Cal.—Dr. Jordan informs me that he observed a mockingbird, *Mimus polyglottos leucophaea*, in his door-yard Dec. 20, 1904. The same or another individual was seen in the vicinity by others, for a week or two subsequently. This species is very rare here.—WALTER K. FISHER.

Notes on the Lewis Woodpecker.—While on a surveying trip in July of last year, I was very much struck with the great number of Lewis woodpeckers (*Asyndesmus torquatus*) breeding in the vicinity of Sardine Valley in Nevada County, California. This valley is a couple of square miles in extent, fairly flat, and usually affords good feeding ground to a large herd of dairy stock. Last year and the year before, this feeding range has had to be abandoned by the dairy people early in the season, owing to a plague of grasshoppers of a wingless variety. Lewis woodpeckers evidently knew of this, for last year they were to be seen all day long, flying from the valley with grasshoppers to feed their young, and almost every old dead pine or blasted stump had a voracious family of these youngsters in it, yelling all day long. This species was the only one that showed any appreciable increase in numbers in consequence of the increase in insect food. I noted western robins (*Merula m. propinqua*), Brewer blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) and a few dull colored sparrows feeding on the grasshoppers but not in any great numbers.—JOHN J. WILLIAMS, *Apple-gate, Cal.*

News Notes

The First International Forestry, Fish and Game Exhibition, under the auspices of the Pacific Coast Forest, Fish and Game Association, will be held at Mechanics' Pavilion, San Francisco, April 1 to 15 inclusive. Group C.—Animals and Birds, is under the direction of Dr. F. W. D'Evelyn (37-39 Phelan Building) who desires for exhibition purposes *live birds* (any variety, water fowl, game, shore, or insectivorous); stuffed and mounted specimens of birds; skins prepared for scientific demonstrations, nests and eggs, eggs in collections. Diplomas of Merit or Certificates of Participation will be awarded on the recommendation of a Special Jury. In writing to Dr. D'Evelyn, as all members who can aid are urged to do, state whether specimens can be supplied as a loan, purchase, or donation to the Association.

Mr. John W. Mailliard has recently returned from an extended trip to the eastern states.

Mr. H. H. Bailey has gone to San Blas, Mexico.

Mr. W. O. Emerson writes that the first Allen hummer arrived at Haywards on the morning of February 5.

Mr. Edmund Heller, under date of February 8, writes from New Orleans: "We have 'finished' Mexico and are now about to leave this port for Puerto Barrios, Guatemala where a year will be spent collecting the larger mammals and birds of the republic. During the fall we succeeded in securing a good series of antelope, mule deer, white-tailed deer, peccaries, beaver, and turkeys in Coahuila, Mexico. A

great many birds were secured at Sabinas, Coahuila, which is on one of the tributary rivers of the lower Rio Grande, and is near the junction of the western and eastern faunas. A great variety of bird life occurs there and I do not suppose it would be difficult to get 600 species in a year's work. For winter residents they have such typical eastern and western birds as the phoebe and Say phoebe, eastern bluebird, Audubon warbler, brown and curve-billed thrashers, black vulture, Harris hawk, bob-white, scaled partridge, boat-tailed grackle, and Brewer blackbird. Turkeys were not rare and in one night's hunt I got three 'whales.'"

In the Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, Feb. 21, 1905, p. 95, Dr. C. W. Richmond calls attention to the fact that *Symphemia* Rafin., founded upon *Tringa semipalmata* Wils. [*Ereunetes pusillus* (L.)] can not stand as the genus of the willet, being a synonym of *Ereunetes*. *Catoptrophorus* Bonaparte is the next available name. *Ossifraga* is untenable so that *Macronectes* Richmond becomes the generic name of the giant fulmar.

Mr. Robert Ridgway is spending the winter in Costa Rica.

Dr. Edgar A. Mearns has recently published two papers on new species of Philippine birds.

Notes on the California Vulture Wanted

For a year or more I have been very successful in gathering notes for my monograph on the California vulture. Many of you have received letters from me and I wish to thank you again for the many valuable notes the answers contained. I am going to push the work now and wish that all who can would give me information in regard to the width of the extended wings and weight of the specimens in the meat with the sex and age of same, also any other notes that are of interest. I will say here in regard to the eggs of the California vulture, that they are not nearly so rare as supposed. I have found in actual existence thirty-five specimens of which twenty-four are perfect. The first authentic date I have of a specimen being taken is April 1859, in the mountains back of Santa Monica near the place called Canejo. This egg is second class and owned by Mr. J. H. Gurney of England. The most taken any year was in 1900 when eight were secured, and the last that I have record of was taken February 11, 1903. The breeding season runs from February 11, [1903] incubation well advanced to June 11 [1899] incubation fresh. I will be glad to correspond with anyone on this subject, so do not hesitate to write me as I wish to make the monograph as complete as possible.

W. L. CHAMBERS, Santa Monica, Calif.

Just as this page is being 'locked up' we learn that the bird bill has become a law. In order to collect legally a permit must now be secured from the State Board of Fish Commissioners, San Francisco.